



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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05/23/2013 Minutes

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING 5/23/13

Approved 8/29/2013

PRESENT: Guest: Shirley Canniff, commissioner Park and Rec – alternate representative with Leslie Mayer

Members: Jane Auger, Leslie Mayer, Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Karpatis, Ann LeRoyer, David White, Patsy Kraemer

ABSENT: Lisa Decker, Michele Hassler, Teresa DeBenedictis

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm

Minutes of the last meeting: approved as amended with corrections re: event signage

MILL BROOK

Co-occurrence mapping is in progress, thanks to Joey Glushko and Adam Kurowski. They are still reviewing methods of weighting areas for different criteria, such as historic value, accessibility to Mass Ave, Minuteman bike path, etc.

Arlington Catholic High School field accessibility issues - no news

Covenant School involvement - no news; discussed possible project to generate plant labels in the Reservoir Wildlife Habitat Garden and possible visit for children before the end of school this year.

MASTER PLAN

Public meetings (with food) planned for early June

Sat June 1 Arlington High School 12:30-3:00

Tues June 4 CSB Arlington Heights 8:15 am

Wed June 5 Hardy School 7-9 pm

OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

Need to begin work in the fall; and check to see if guidelines have changed

Need to prepare a warrant for town meeting in spring 2014, and submit request to CDBG (Community Block Redevelopment Grant) - have the criteria changed? Do we need to hire a consultant again, and would that be covered? According to Joey, yes...

Elizabeth - much of the old text will be reusable from the old plan...(history, geology, etc.)

Leslie - ADA updates will be a new inclusion for the next plan

OPEN SPACES OF ARLINGTON BOOK AND ONLINE SITE

Mapping update is in progress with Adam Kurowski's help; a sample template with icons was circulated for review

MISCELLANEOUS

New Visitor Center (temporary structure) at Uncle Sam Statue Park, approved by Town Meeting

Rain Gardens at Hardy School and Hurd Field are just about done. Discussion about upkeep on an ongoing basis – involvement by school groups? Covenant School?

MyRWA support? David will explore options...

Symmes development - public space (paths, woods, parks) will be expanded compared to what was originally planned.

Land Trust and Conservation Commission signage, parking spaces will be present. Site should be included in Visitors Center literature, Arlington walking book, etc.

Downing Square - work underway, pipes being laid in preparation for redesign of intersection

Belmont Uplands and Cambridge development - David reported that Belmont Con Comm and Selectmen are backing off from their appeals.

NEW BUSINESS

Joey announced two state programs exist for purchase of lands for open space and recreation

1-The Land Grants: available to Conservation Commissions for purchase of new lands for passive recreation (Mugar? Mill Brook surrounds?)

2-PARC grants: For recreational improvements. Leslie noted that a grant writer would be needed...will be discussed in future PRC meetings

Patsy reported about 70 of the Garden Club's islands and planters have been adopted

She announced June 7th Town Hall 100th birthday party 5:30- 7pm. \$40 tickets, food by Tryst

June 8th 10-3. Opens Space conference in Ashburnham MA www.Mountgrace.org

Ann reported that Town Meeting moderator almost eliminated the OSC by fiat at Town Meeting this year... Discussion about creation and mandate of OSC – Is it a permanent town committee or a time limited committee. Ann will follow up.

TOWN DAY - Saturday, Sept 21

Joey reported that Con Com requested that we share space for a single booth. General agreement that this would not work well, since both groups need a lot of table space for displays, but we will request adjacent booths so we can create one larger space.

Next meeting June 27, 7:30

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Submitted by Jane Auger